

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-111. (canceled)

112. (previously presented) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising the steps of:

placing a wager;

providing a first game of chance wherein said first game of chance is a card game employing a deck of cards and includes dealing a hand of cards to a player from said deck of cards;

providing a second game of chance operated at the beginning of said first game of chance and in conjunction with said first game of chance, wherein said second game of chance is a game having a plurality of differing award indicia, wherein said award indicia are assigned to each card dealt from said deck of cards, displaying said award indicia of said hand of cards, wherein said second game of chance has the potential on every play thereof for achieving an award; and

awarding any award achieved in said second game of chance.

113. (previously presented) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising the steps of:

placing a wager;

providing a first game of chance wherein said first game of chance is a five card poker game and includes dealing a hand of cards to a player, wherein said card game further comprises the step of dealing an opening hand of cards from which a player can choose to select cards to hold as well as select cards to discard,

providing a second game of chance, said second game of chance is operated only in conjunction with said opening hand, wherein said second game of chance displays award indicia associated in a one to one correspondence with a card in said first game of chance hand, each award indicia being selected as well as discarded in accordance with its associated card, said card game including the further step of replacing any discarded card with another randomly selected card and said second game of chance including the step of replacing any discarded award indicia with another randomly selected award indicia; and

awarding any award achieved in said second game of chance.

114. (currently amended) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising the steps of:

placing a wager;

providing a first game of chance on a first position of said gaming machine wherein said first game of chance is a slot game having a reel display with a ~~plurality-particular number~~ of reels having first game indicia thereon, and wherein said step of providing said first game of chance includes a display of randomly selected first game indicia for each reel;

providing a second game of chance on a second position of said gaming machine separate and distinct from said first position, said second game of chance is operated only in conjunction with said first game of chance irrespective of said display of randomly selected first game indicia for each reel, wherein said second game of chance includes having a plurality of award indicia different from said first game indicia, a preset number of said award indicia being displayed in the course of said second game through a random selection, wherein said preset number of said award indicia is the same as said particular number of reels in said first game of chance, wherein said award indicia are associated in a one to one correspondence with said reels in said first game of chance, and said award is achieved through a predetermined association of said award indicia; and awarding any award achieved in said second game of chance.

115-127. (cancelled)

128. (new) The method of claim 114 wherein said award achieved in said second game of chance is a tangible good.

129. (new) A method of operating a gaming machine, comprising the steps of:

placing a wager;

providing a first game of chance on a first position of said gaming machine wherein said first game of chance is a slot game having a reel display with a particular number of reels having first game indicia thereon, and wherein said step of providing said first game of chance includes a display of randomly selected first game indicia for each reel;

providing a second game of chance on a second position of said gaming machine separate and distinct from said first position, said second game of chance is operated only in conjunction with said first game of chance irrespective of said display of randomly selected first game indicia for each reel, wherein said second game of chance includes having a plurality of award indicia different from said first game indicia, a preset number of said award indicia being displayed in the course of said second game through a random selection, wherein said preset number of said award indicia is two or more indicia and said indicia are representative of a tangible (non-monetary) award, and said award is achieved through a predetermined matching association of said award indicia; and

awarding any award achieved in said second game of chance.